



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

OFFICE OF OIL AND GAS MANAGEMENT

January 30, 2012

Dear Operator:

The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Bureaus of Mine Safety and Oil and Gas Planning and Program Management (BOGPPM) are in a joint endeavor to locate abandoned wells in active mining areas. By identifying abandoned wells prior to mining, they can be avoided or plugged to ensure safe mining operations and prevent gas migration.

To help identify abandoned wells in active coal mining areas, DEP is initiating a project to digitize historic wells on Farm Line Maps with abandoned/orphan wells known by DEP onto an ArcGIS map. Unfortunately, all of the historic wells on Farm Line Maps are not known to DEP.

If you have Farm Line Maps in areas of coal mining, I request that you please provide a copy to DEP so that we can create a composite map of known abandoned/orphan wells with wells identified on Farm Line Maps. This will advance our mission of making a safer environment for the citizens of Pennsylvania. Please send your Farm Line Maps to DEP, BOGPPM at P.O. Box 8765, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8765.

Your assistance in this effort is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Ghoweri, Environmental Group Manager for BOGPPM, by e-mail at sghoweri@pa.gov or by telephone at 717.772.2199.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Perry
Deputy Secretary for
Oil and Gas Management